

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3201

To establish a joint United States-Taiwan Infectious Disease Monitoring Center to serve as an early warning center in the case of an infectious disease outbreak in the Indo-Pacific region.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To establish a joint United States-Taiwan Infectious Disease Monitoring Center to serve as an early warning center in the case of an infectious disease outbreak in the Indo-Pacific region.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “United States-Taiwan  
5 Public Health Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1                             (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the  
2                             Infectious Disease Monitoring Center established  
3                             pursuant to section 3.

4                             (2) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
5                             TEES.—The term “relevant congressional commit-  
6                             tees” means—

7                                 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
8                             the Senate;

9                                 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,  
10                             Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

11                                 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
12                             the House of Representatives; and

13                                 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
14                             merce of the House of Representatives.

15                             (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
16                             the Secretary of State.

17 **SEC. 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASE MONITORING CENTER.**

18                             (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
19                             tion with the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
20                             and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and  
21                             agencies, shall—

22                                 (1) establish an Infectious Disease Monitoring  
23                             Center within the American Institute in Taiwan in  
24                             Taipei, Taiwan; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, complete a study of how best to establish the Center that includes—

(B) a consideration of the personnel, material, and funding requirements necessary to establish and operate the Center.

12 (b) PARTNERSHIP.—The Center shall seek to partner  
13 with the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control to conduct  
14 health monitoring of infectious diseases in the region by—

15 (1) regularly monitoring, analyzing, and dis-  
16 seminating open-source material from countries in  
17 the region, including viral strains, bacterial sub-  
18 types, and other pathogens;

19                   (2) engaging in people-to-people contacts with  
20                   medical specialists and public health officials in the  
21                   region;

22 (3) providing expertise and information on in-  
23 fectionous diseases to the Government of the United  
24 States and the Taiwanese government; and

1                             (4) carrying out other appropriate activities, as  
2                             determined by the Director of the Center.

3                             (c) STAFFING.—

4                             (1) INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERTS.—The Sec-  
5                             retary of Health and Human Services shall annually  
6                             submit a list to the Secretary that identifies not  
7                             fewer than 3 infectious disease experts, from among  
8                             the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for  
9                             Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and  
10                             Drug Administration, who are recommended to serve  
11                             as detailees to the Center.

12                             (2) OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—  
13                             The heads of other relevant Federal departments  
14                             and agencies may submit recommendations to the  
15                             Secretary of qualified persons within their respective  
16                             departments and agencies to serve as detailees to the  
17                             Center.

18                             (3) SELECTION.—The Secretary, after consid-  
19                             ering the detailees recommended pursuant to para-  
20                             graphs (1) and (2)—

21                             (A) shall appoint, for a period to be deter-  
22                             mined by the Secretary—

23                                 (i) not fewer than 3 infectious disease  
24                             experts detailed from among the National  
25                             Institutes of Health, the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration to work at the Center, including 1 expert to serve as the Director of the Center; and

(ii) not fewer than 1 qualified person from any other relevant Federal department or agency, including the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, to work at the Center;

(B) may employ qualified foreign service nationals or locally engaged staff who are considered citizens of Taiwan to work at the Center; and

(C) may enter into agreements with the Taiwanese government regarding employees of the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control who may be tasked with supporting or coordinating with the Center.

20 (4) COMPENSATION.—Individuals appointed by  
21 the Secretary pursuant to clause (i) or (ii) of para-  
22 graph (3)(A)—

1           agencies for the duration of such appointment;

2           and

3           (B) shall be compensated by the Depart-

4           ment of State.

5 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

6           Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment

7   of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the rel-

8 evant congressional committees that contains the results

9 of the study described in section 3(a)(2), including—

10           (1) a plan on how to establish and operate the

11           Center, including—

12           (A) the personnel, material, and funding

13           requirements necessary to establish and operate

14           the Center; and

15           (B) the proposed structure and composi-

16           tion of Center personnel;

17           (2) a description of the efforts that have been

18           undertaken to establish the Center; and

19           (3) a description of any consultations or agree-

20           ments between the Department of State and the

21           Taiwanese government regarding the establishment

22           and operation of the Center, including—

23           (A) the role that employees of the Taiwan

24           Centers for Disease Control would play in sup-

25           porting or coordinating with the Center; and

(B) whether any employees of the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control would be detailed to, or co-located with, the Center.

#### **4 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 (a) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—There are authorized  
6 to be appropriated to the Department of State—

23 (b) AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN.—There are  
24 authorized to be appropriated to the American Institute

1 in Taiwan for fiscal year 2022, and each succeeding fiscal  
2 year, \$1,300,000, of which—  
3           (1) \$1,200,000 shall be used to employ the per-  
4 sonnel described in section 3(c)(3); and  
5           (2) \$100,000 shall be used for management ex-  
6 penses related to operating the Center.

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